

Remarks

Claims 1-12 and 54-64 were cancelled in a previous response. Claims 13-53 and 65-114 are presently pending. The Office restricts claims 13-53 and 65-114 into 23 groups of inventions. Applicant hereby elects group VII, which includes claims 21-24, 36-37 and 38-39. This group is drawn to methods of using compositions containing a metal ion chelating agent, wherein the composition is an ophthalmic preparation.

Conclusion

Applicant believes it has complied with the Office's restriction requirement. Applicant respectfully requests that the above remarks and amendments be entered and that the application proceed to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly H. Lu
Reg. No. 51,973
Thompson Coburn LLP
One U.S. Bank Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63101
314-552-6307
314-552-7307 (fax)